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Prince George's and
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Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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**HB 1372 Environment – Green Infrastructure Rebate Program –
Establishment**

SUPPORT

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIR, MR. VICE CHAIR AND ESTEEMED ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS. I AM EXCITED TO PRESENT TO YOU A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL THAT PROVIDES RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND NONPROFITS A REFUND CHECK FOR INSTALLING RAIN BARRELS, RAIN GARDENS, REPLACING IMPERVIOUS DRIVEWAYS AND OTHER FEATURES THAT WILL HELP COUNTIES AND THE STATE MEET THEIR CLEAN WATER ACT OBLIGATIONS BY CONTROLLING STORMWATER RUNOFF INTO RIVERS AND STREAMS.

I AM HERE TO ASK YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF HB 1372, ENABLING LEGISLATION THAT ENCOURAGES LOCAL JURISDICTIONS TO ADOPT A POPULAR REBATE PROGRAM THAT HAS EXISTED FOR 8-12 YEARS IN HOWARD, PRINCE GEORGE'S AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES. THE BILL PROPOSES A COST-SHARING FEATURE WHERE THE STATE WOULD PAY 60 PERCENT OF THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE FROM THE CLEAN WATER FUND AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY 40 PERCENT.

HOW IT WOULD WORK: RESIDENTS, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS, AN OWNER OF A MULTIFAMILY DWELLING, A HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, A CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, A CIVIC ASSOCIATION, OR A NONPROFIT

ORGANIZATION WOULD SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND REVIEW AGENCY FOR INSTALLATION OF ANY ONE OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FEATURES:

- CISTERN
- URBAN TREE CANOPY
- RAIN GARDENS
- PAVEMENT REMOVAL
- PERMEABLE PAVEMENT AND
- GREEN ROOFS

THE APPLICANT MUST SUBMIT PAPERWORK PROVING THEY OWN THE PROPERTY AND THE PROPOSAL MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION. RAIN BARRELS DO NOT REQUIRE PRE-APPROVAL.

APPLICANTS THAT ARE APPROVED MAY RECEIVE:

- UP TO \$4,000 FOR INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS;
- UP TO \$20,000 FOR COMMERCIAL OR NONPROFIT PROJECTS.

GOOD CHALLENGES: THE BILL HAS GENERATED WIDESPREAD INTEREST AND FEEDBACK FROM MUNICIPALITIES, A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND COUNTIES THAT ALREADY HAVE A PROGRAM AS WELL AS THOSE THAT DO NOT BUT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE.

FOR EXAMPLE, HOWARD COUNTY ALREADY HAS A REBATE PROGRAM BUT WANTS TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COST SHARING FEATURE WITH THE STATE WHILE NOT GIVING UP ITS OWN. AND A NONPROFIT ON THE EASTERN SHORE IS INTERESTED IN FIGURING OUT WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS IN COUNTIES THAT DO NOT OPT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: I HAVE RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO EXPAND THE LIST OF ALLOWABLE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

PROJECTS TO INCLUDE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING AND DRY WELLS. I AM HAPPY TO DO THAT.

WE WILL LIKELY HAVE ONE OR MORE ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO COME UP WITH A STATE-ONLY REBATE FOR INTERESTED APPLICANTS IN COUNTIES THAT DO NOT ADOPT THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE PROGRAM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A FEW PICTURES OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. I HOPE YOU WILL ISSUE A FAVORABLE REPORT OF HB 1372.